



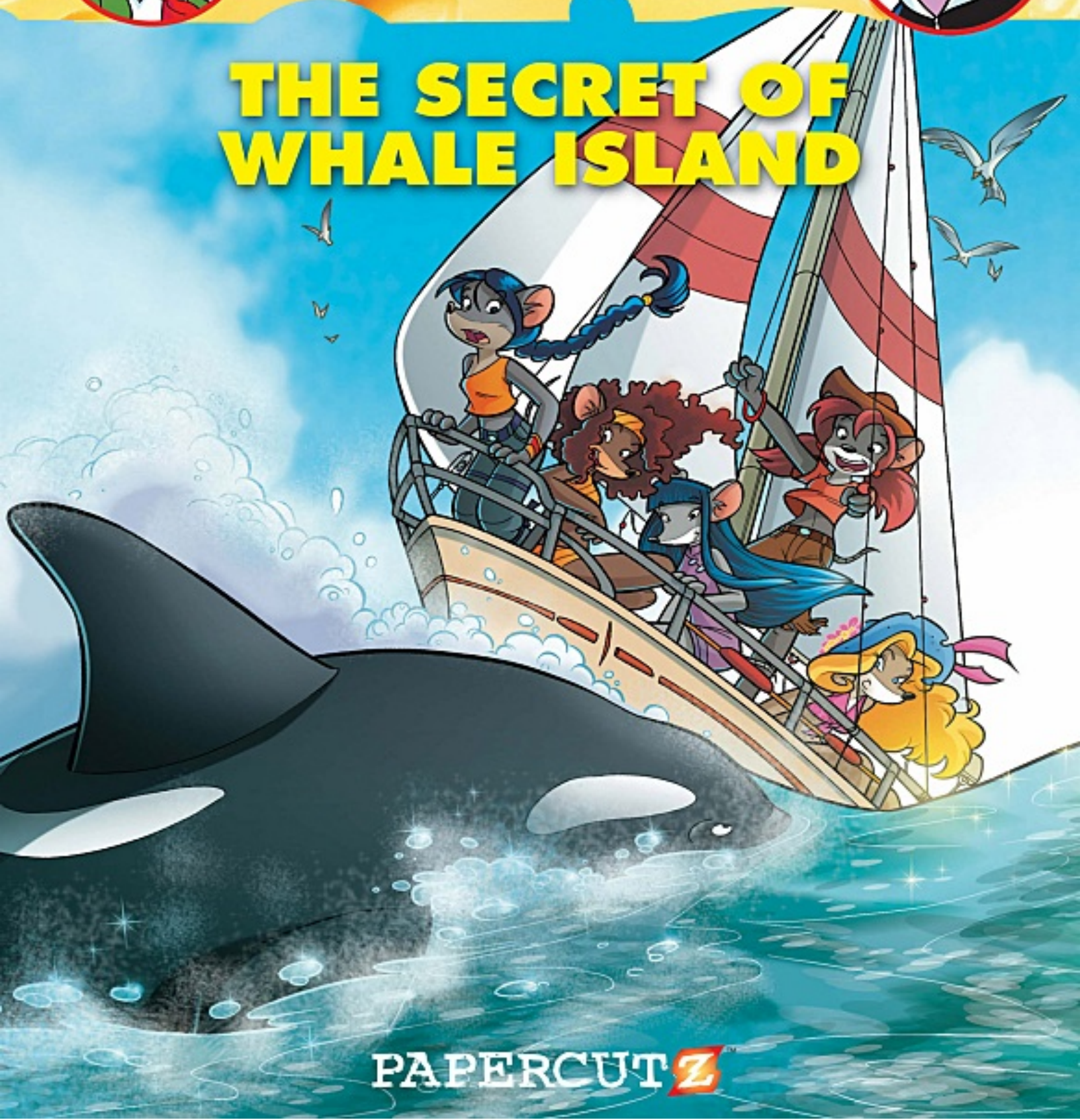
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Thea Stilton



THE SECRET OF WHALE ISLAND



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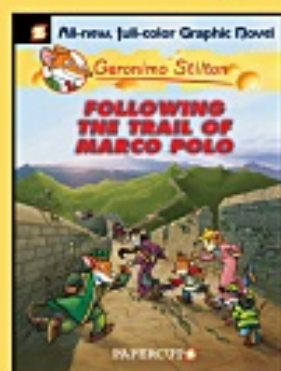
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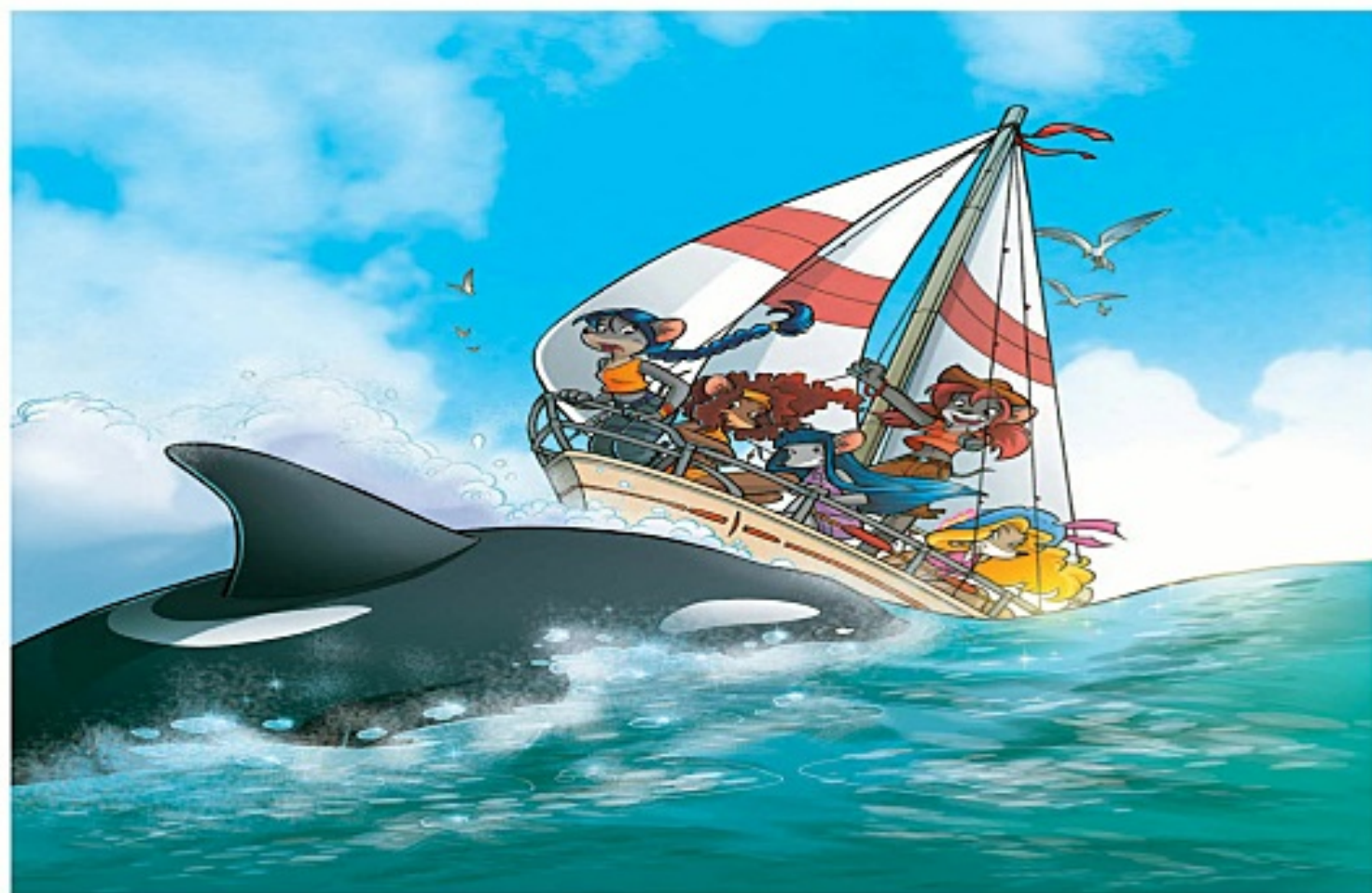
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Thea Stilton

THE SECRET OF WHALE ISLAND

By Thea Stilton



PAPERCUT  TM

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TO THE NORTH OF
MOUSE ISLAND IS
Whale Island!



WHERE THE ANCIENT
AND PRESTIGIOUS
**MOUSEFORD
ACADEMY**
CAN BE FOUND!



A NEW ACADEMIC YEAR
IS ABOUT TO BEGIN AT
THE ACADEMY...



ACCORDING TO TRADITION, CLASSES BEGIN AT THE SAME TIME AS THE WHALES ARRIVE IN THE SEAS AROUND THE ISLAND...

BUT WHEN WILL THEY GET HERE, GRANDPA?

YOU'LL SEE THEM IN A FEW DAYS, MARY! THEY'RE VERY PUNCTUAL...

UNLESS THAT MYSTERIOUS ORCA HAS MADE THEM CHANGE THEIR ROUTE!

MEANWHILE, IN THE STUDY OF OCTAVIUS DE MOUSUS, MOUSEFORD'S HEADMASTER...

CALAMITOUS CATS AND SASSAFRAS RATS! ARE YOU SERIOUS, THEA? YOU CAN'T MISS THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR! THE BIG DANCE WON'T BE THE SAME WITHOUT YOU!

CALM DOWN! I'LL DO EVERYTHING I CAN TO GET THERE IN TIME FOR THE DANCE, I PROMISE! SO...WHAT'RE THE THEA SISTERS UP TO?

THEY'RE BUSY ORGANIZING THE PARTY! YOU KNOW THEY'VE GOT A WEAKNESS FOR IMPOSSIBLE MISSIONS... AND I'M RELYING ON THEM! WELL DONE! THEN YOU CAN REST EASY!

I'D DO THAT IF I COULD, THEA, BUT EVERY YEAR SOMETHING **NEW** GOES WRONG!

EVERYTHING'LL BE FINE, YOU'LL SEE!

ONE THING'S FOR CERTAIN! DO YOU REMEMBER SARDINIA SQUID? DINAH? SHE GOT A SCHOLARSHIP TO STUDY AT MOUSEFORD!

"SHE DID IT! SHE'LL BE THE FIRST WHALE ISLAND RESIDENT TO STUDY AT THE ACADEMY!"

MY BABY!
~SNIFF!~

DON'T CRY,
MOM! THE
ACADEMY'S
NEARBY...

I'M SO
PROUD OF YOU!
~SNIFF SNIFF!~

CONGRATS,
BIG SIS!

OH, HOW NICE OF YOU!
THEY'RE BEAUTIFUL,
MARY!

YOU KNOW...
ONE DAY I
WANT TO
GO TO THE
ACADEMY
LIKE YOU!

YOU'LL
DO IT,
I'M SURE!
~SMACK!~

THE WHOLE TOWN'S DROPPING
BY TO CONGRATULATE DINA!
EVERYONE'S COMING TO WISH HER
GOODBYE, OVERWHELMING HER WITH
COMPLIMENTS AND PRESENTS...

HURRAY FOR
DINA! YIPPEE!

THEY'RE
ALL HERE...
EXCEPT
LEOPOLD!

COMING THROUGH!
EXCUSE ME! MAKE
WAY FOR THE
DANCE DRESS!

OOOH!

AN ENCHANTING
DRESS!

IT'S
AMAZING!

WHO'S YOUR DATE?

RIGHT, WHO? DINA'D HOPED
SHE'D BE ABLE TO DANCE WITH
LEOPOLD... BUT PERHAPS
IT WASN'T TO BE!

GETTING A DATE FOR THE
MOUSEFORD BIG DANCE
WAS A PROBLEM FOR
MANY STUDENTS...

PRETTYPLEASE
PRETTYPLEASE,
HIDE ME,
PAM!

HEY, WHAT'S
GOTTEN INTO
YOU?!



...BUT
ESPECIALLY
FOR COLETTE!

THOSE THREE INVITED ME TO
THE DANCE AND I HAVE
NOT DECIDED YET!

ALL
THREE?

NO ONE'S
ASKED ME YET!

VIOLET'S PROBLEMS,
HOWEVER, WERE
THE FLORAL
DECORATIONS...

MIGHT THESE
BE ENOUGH,
VIOLET?

-SIGH!- I'D SAY
THERE CAN NEVER BE
TOO MANY!

HMM... YET I
FEEL LIKE SOMETHING'S
STILL MISSING!

OF COURSE, SOMETHING'S
MISSING! *THE STUDENTS!*
WE HAVE TO GO TO
THE PORT TO PICK UP
THE NEWCOMERS,
REMEMBER?!

PULVER-
IZED
PISTONS!

THIS IS A JOB FOR MY
ATV! I KNOW A COUPLE
OF SHORTCUTS THAT
WILL GET US THERE IN A
FLASH! IT'LL BE A PIECE
OF CAKE!

SURE
ENOUGH...

THE SAND...
IT'LL GET MY
HAIR ALL
TANGLED!

YEAH, BUT THIS WAY
WE'LL GET THERE IN
HALF THE TIME! ONE
LAST CURVE AND
WE'LL BE...

CLUNK
CLW CLUNK
TH THUMP

...AT THE
PORT!

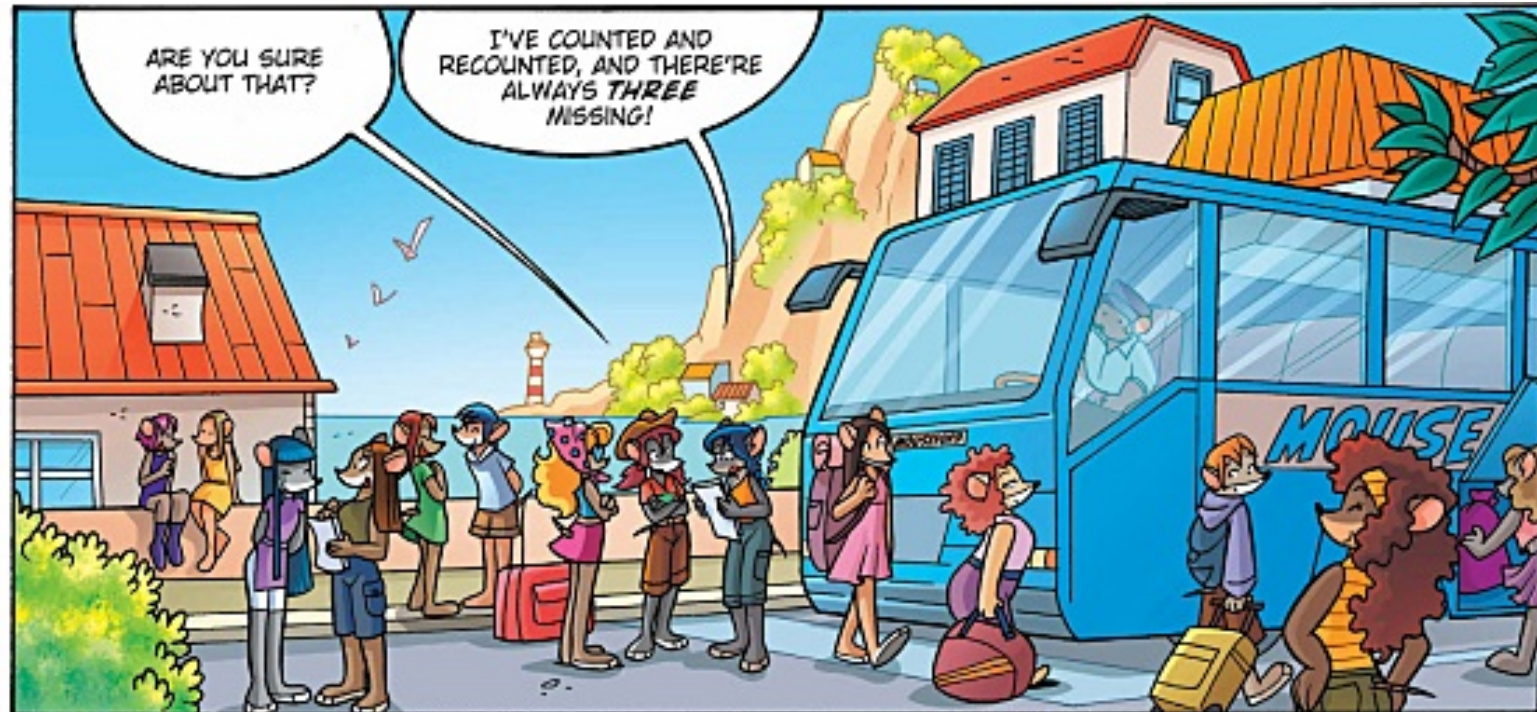
THERE'S THE HYDROFOIL!
JUST IN TIME!

WHAT TIME
IS THE HYDROFOIL
ARRIVING AT NEW
MOUSE CITY?
WE'RE SUPER LATE!

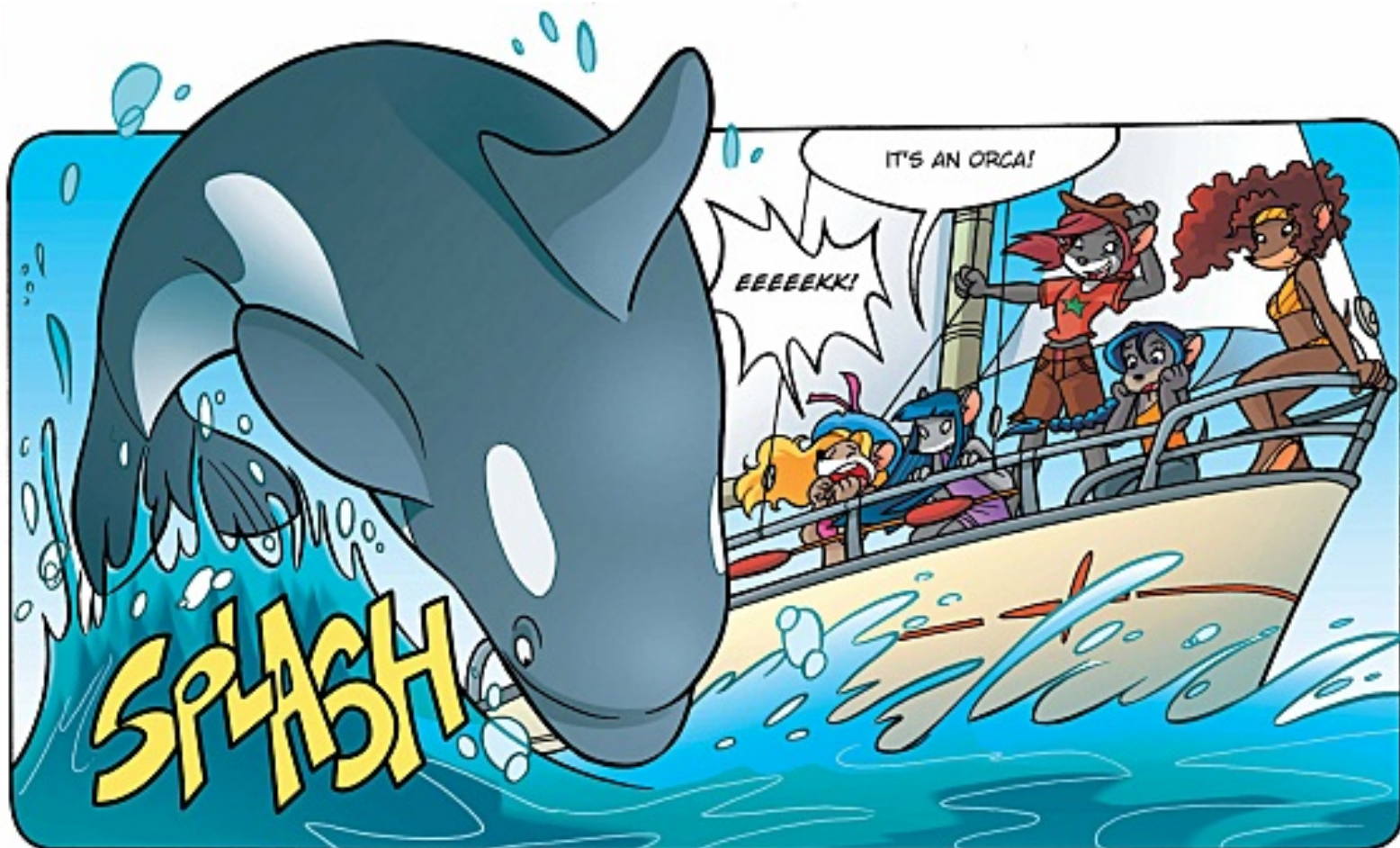
CONGRATULATE ME, FRIENDS!
I SHREDDED THE TRAIL'S
SPEED RECORDS!











THE MARINE BIOLOGY LAB
IS THE UNDISPUTED REALM OF
PROFESSOR IAN VAN KRAKEN.

I HOPE THE
PROFESSOR'LL
HAVE A DEFINITE
PLAN IN MIND!

BUT TO ALL
APPEARANCES, THE
PROFESSOR HAS
SOMETHING ELSE TO
THINK ABOUT!

...LET'S JUST TAKE A LOOK...
INSERT OBJECT A1 INTO
SUPPORT Y23...

~GASP!~ BUT--
BUT WHAT HAPPENED
IN HERE?

HEY, THERE! ISN'T THIS WONDERFUL?
THIS IS THE **NEWEST EQUIPMENT**,
COURTESY OF DE VISSEN, INC.!

?!

WHAT BRINGS
YOU OVER HERE,
NICKY?

THE CEREMONY,
PROFESSOR!
THERE'S NOT MUCH
TIME LEFT!

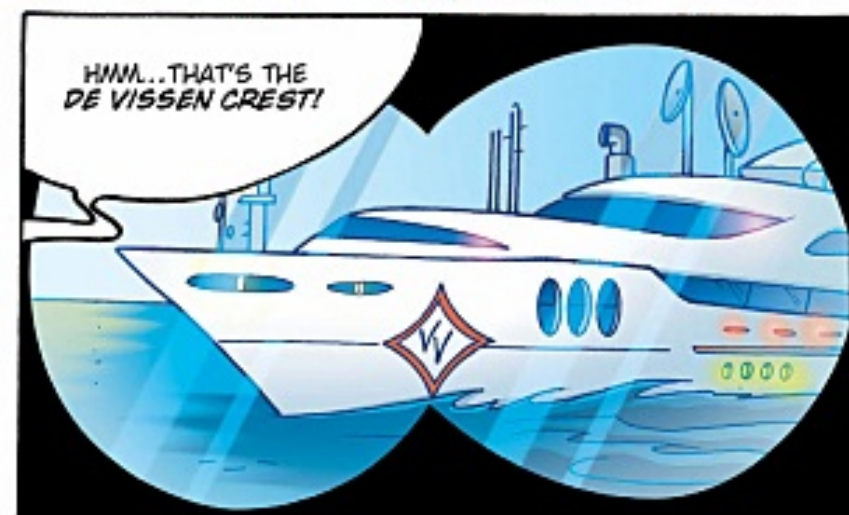
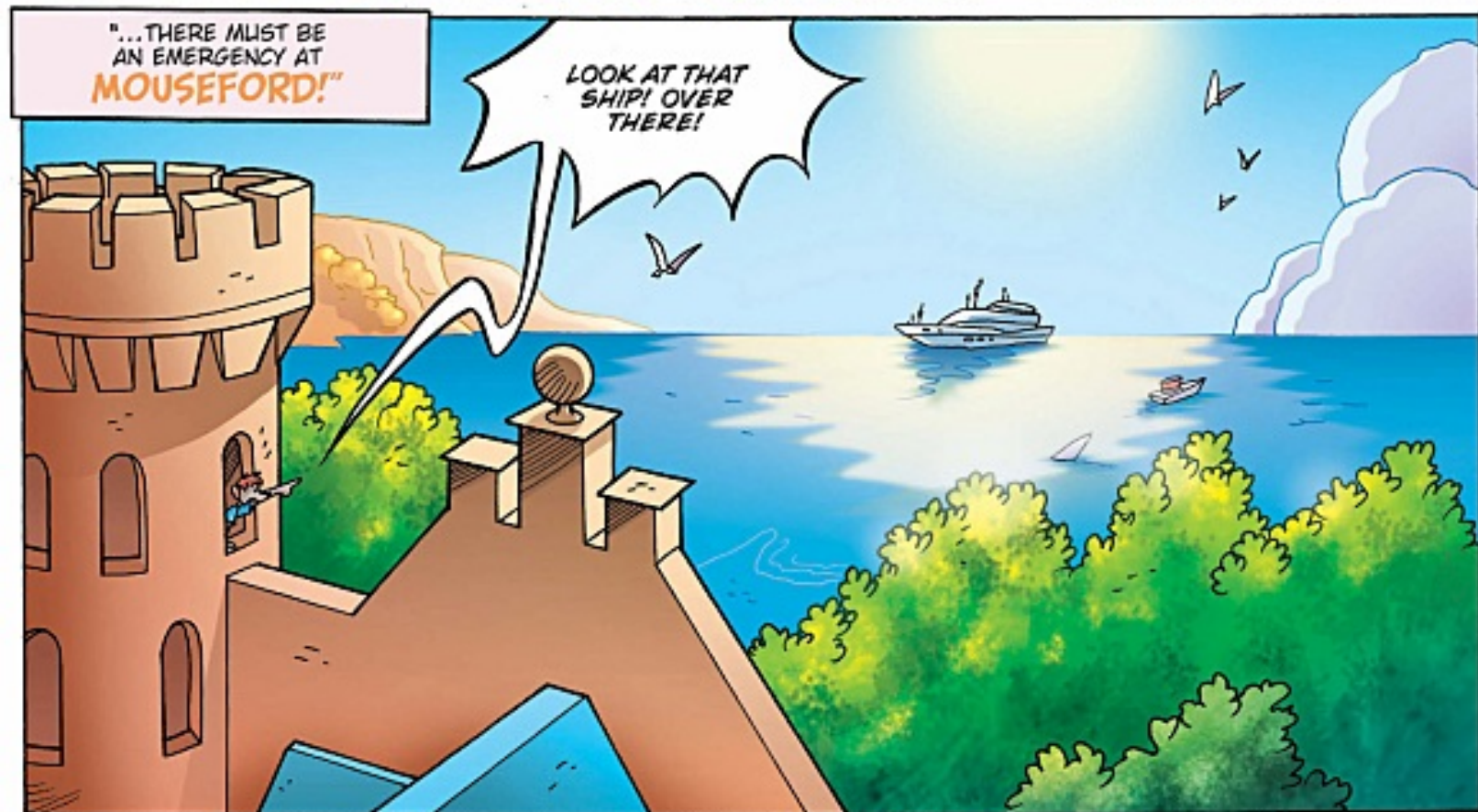
THE CEREMONY? OH,
THE CEREMONY--BUT,
OF COURSE! I WAS JUST
WORKING ON IT!

RIGHT...
BEFORE THE
NEW "TOYS"
ARRIVED!

I REMEMBER THERE WAS A
PROBLEM WITH THE WHALES'
ROUTE! I WAS ABOUT TO
GO OUT INTO THE
SEA IN THE
BATHYSCAPHE
WHEN...

WAP

...WHEN
THE TRUCK
WITH THE
BOXES OF
EQUIPMENT
CAME!



IN A FLASH, THE NEWS MAKES
THE ROUNDS AT MOUSEFORD...

FUP FUP FUP

WHO ARE
THE DE
VISSENS?

WHERE'VE YOU
BEEN LIVING, PAULI?
VISSIA DE
VISSSEN IS A
REAL CELEBRITY!

SHE'S THE
QUEEN OF
COSMETICS!
THE EMPRESS
OF FOUNDATION!
SHE'S A REAL
LEGEND!



SHE'S FAMOUS AND INVOLVED
WITH BEAUTY! FOR COLETTE,
THAT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE
HER A REAL LEGEND!

YOU'RE SO WRONG!
BESIDES, VISSIA DOESN'T
ONLY THINK ABOUT
BUSINESS!

DID YOU KNOW SHE'S
PRESIDENT OF THE CSE,
THE CLUB TO SAVE
THE ENVIRON-
MENT?

FUP FUP FUP

"ALL IN ALL, VISSIA DE
VISSSEN IS REALLY
FIRST-RATE!"



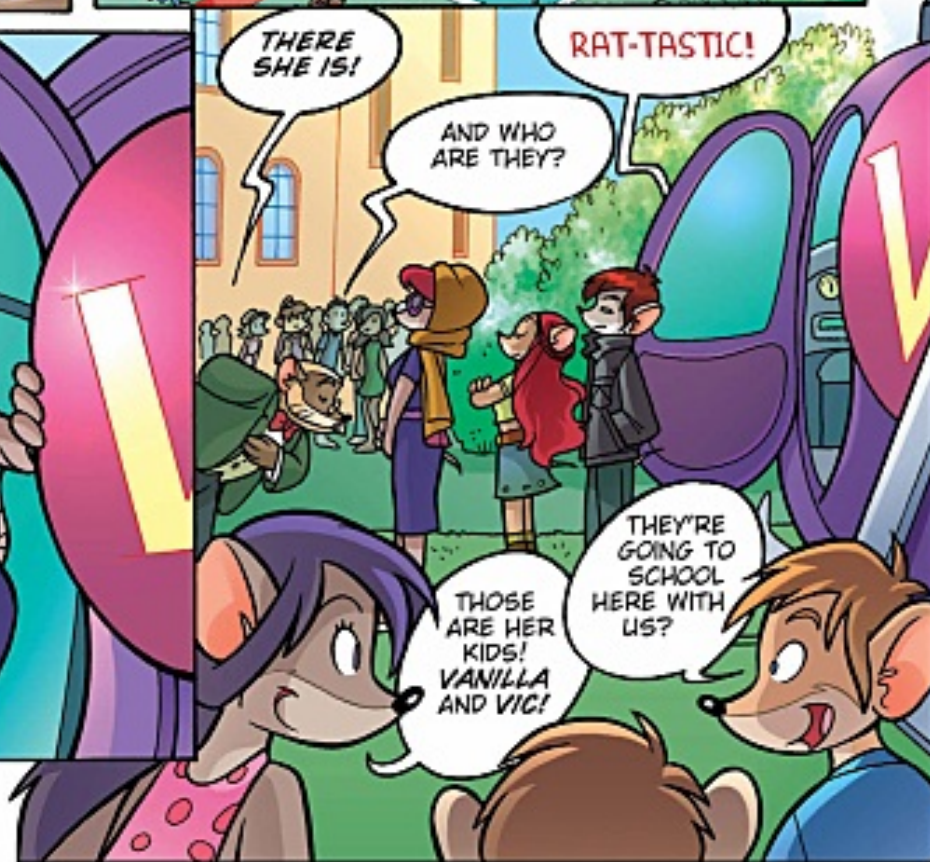
THERE
SHE IS!

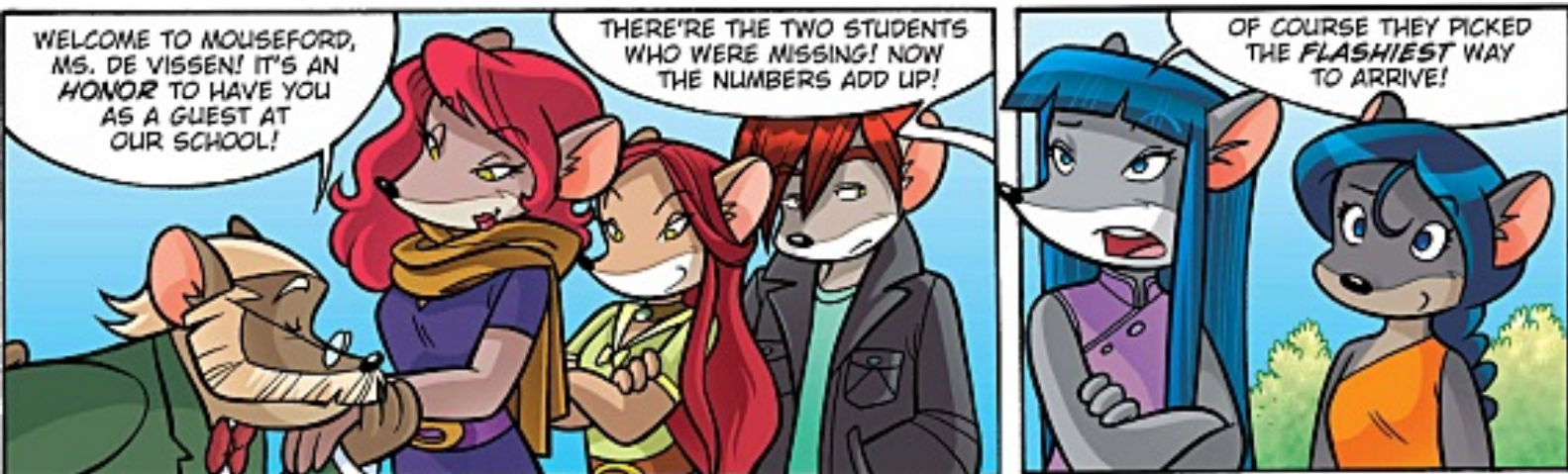
RAT-TASTIC!

AND WHO
ARE THEY?

THOSE
ARE HER
KIDS!
VANILLA
AND VIC!

THEY'RE
GOING TO
SCHOOL
HERE WITH
US?





THE DE VISSSEN'S ARRIVAL HAS TORN THROUGH MOUSEFORD ACADEMY LIKE A **CYCLONE!**

MARINE BIOLOGY WILL BE OUR FIRST CHOICE!

...AND WE'RE GUARANTEED TO PASS, AFTER THE GIFT MOM GAVE THE MARINE BIOLOGY LAB!

WHAT CLASSES ARE YOU TAKING?



IN THE MEANTIME, I'M ENTRUSTING MY TWO JEWELS TO YOU, HEADMASTER! I'M SURE MOUSEFORD ACADEMY WILL BE ABLE TO PREPARE THEM FOR THEIR GREAT FUTURE!

AS WE DO ALL OUR STUDENTS, MADAM!

WHAT A TOUCHING SCENE!

THE POOR THING...

WHO'S A POOR THING?

I WAS THINKING OF VANILLA! IT MUST'VE BEEN VERY DIFFICULT LIVING ALONGSIDE A MOTHER LIKE THAT! HER DAUGHTER WOULD FEEL OVERWHELMED BY THE COMPARISON!

DEFINITELY! LOOK AT HER! SHE'S THE IMAGE OF SUFFERING!

HA!
HA!
HA!

I'VE HEARD PEOPLE TALKING ABOUT A KIND OF "CLUB" HERE AT MOUSEFORD. I THINK IT'S CALLED THE "THEA SISTERS"... OR SOMETHING LIKE THAT!

OH, NO, YOU'RE WRONG! THE THEA SISTERS ARE JUST A GROUP OF FRIENDS.

AND WHAT'S SO SPECIAL ABOUT THESE... "FRIENDS"?

THEY'RE REALLY WITH IT!

PLUS, THEA STILTON HAS WRITTEN BOOKS ABOUT THEIR ADVENTURES IN EVERY CORNER OF THE WORLD!

HMMM... THESE THEA SISTERS ARE VERY POPULAR! TOO POPULAR, FOR MY TASTE!

VANILLA, WHY DON'T YOU FORM A REAL CLUB? I'D BE THE FIRST TO SIGN UP!

ME, TOO!

WELL... I'LL THINK ABOUT IT!

AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE
OLD CHEESE FACTORY INN...

...NO, NO, AND AGAIN,
NO, LEO! IT'S TOO
DANGEROUS! THE ORCA
COULD ATTACK
YOU, TOO!

YOUR
FATHER'S
RIGHT,
LEOPOLD!

YOU
SHOULDN'T
GO OUT TO
SEA!

THERE'S SOMETHING **STRANGE**
OFFSHORE! AND THAT **LOVE ORCA** IS
THE STRANGEST OF ALL! IT DOESN'T
LIVE IN A POD LIKE OTHER ORCAS AND
ATTACKS ALL THE FISHING SHIPS! IT
ALMOST SEEMS LIKE IT'S LOOKING
FOR SOMETHING...

AND YOU'RE NOT EVEN
THINKING ABOUT DINA?
YOU DIDN'T EVEN SAY
GOODBYE TO HER
TODAY!

I...
I...

ENOUGH!

I'M A **FISHERMAN!** THE
SEA IS MY BUSINESS! MY
SHIP HAS FACED TEMPESTS
AND GALES WITHOUT
SINKING...

...SO AN ORCA'S NOT
GOING TO STOP ME!

THE NEXT MORNING, A VISIT
DISTURBS THE TRANQUILITY OF
THE MARINE BIOLOGY LAB...

FUP

FUP
FUP

A SMALL DELEGATION OF MOUSEFORD
PROFESSORS AND STUDENTS HAS COME
TO WAIT FOR VISSIA DE VISSSEN...



FUP FUP FUP

...AND THERE'S ALSO A TV CREW
THAT HAS SPECIFICALLY COME WITH
THEM FROM NEW MOUSE CITY!

EXCELLENT!
THE TV CAMERAS
ARE HERE, AS I
ORDERED...



FUP FUP FUP

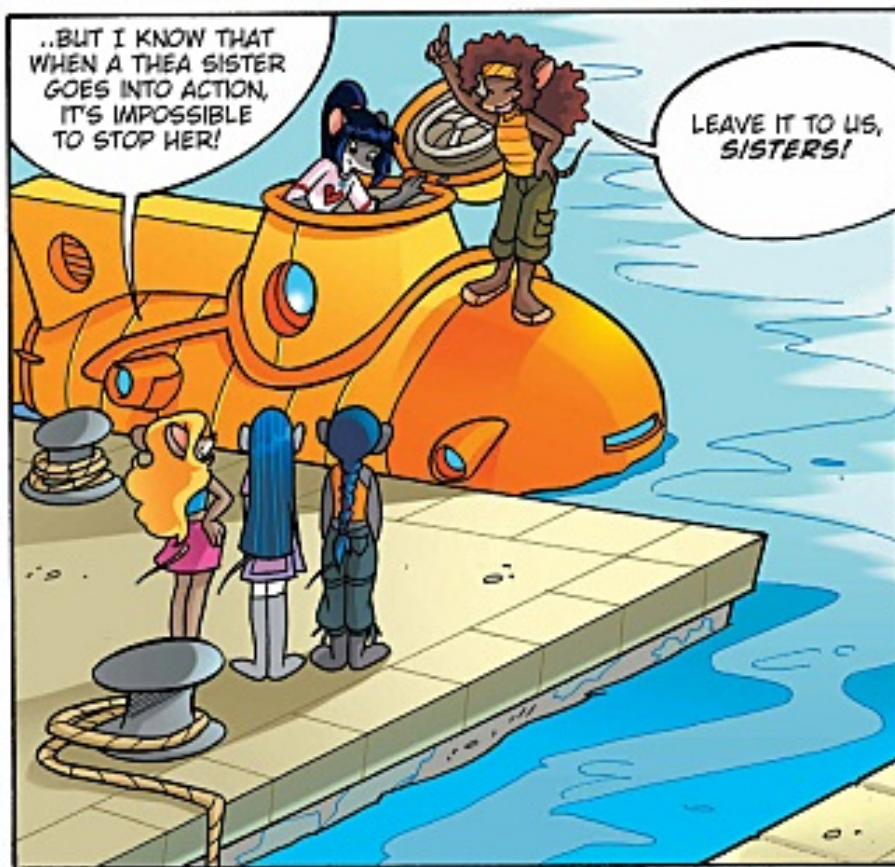
I WANT EVERYONE TO
SEE HOW GENEROUS
THE GREAT VISSIA DE
VISSSEN IS!











MEANWHILE, THE HELICOPTER HAS REACHED THE FISHING BOAT, THE PROVOLONE II, WHICH IS SLOWLY HEADING BACK TO THE PORT...

FUP FUP FUP



ECHO 140 BRAVO HERE!
DO YOU NEED ASSISTANCE,
PROVOLONE II?

THANK YOU, FRIENDS!
EVERYTHING'S OKAY
HERE! I JUST TOOK
AN OUT-OF-SEASON
SWIM!

I WAS THROWN
OVERBOARD. WHILE I
WAS TRYING TO SAVE
THE NETS! AND MY
SAILORS RUSHED TO
SOUND THE ALARM!

OWIE!



ASK HIM
ABOUT THE
ORCA!

AHEM... WHAT
HAPPENED TO
THE ORCA?

IT WENT OFF IN A
SOUTHEASTERLY
DIRECTION... AND I
REALLY HOPE IT
WON'T COME
BACK!



FUP FUP FUP

THEN IF YOU DON'T NEED
OUR HELP, WE'LL TRACK
DOWN THE ORCA! WE'LL
WARN YOU IMMEDIATELY
IF THERE'S ANY
DANGER! SAFE
JOURNEY HOME,
FOLKS!



THE HELICOPTER HAS
BARELY DISAPPEARED IN
THE CLOUDS, WHEN...

OVER THERE! I SEE A
WAKE! IT'S THE ORCA!
IT'S ATTACKING AGAIN!

ALL HANDS ON DECK!
FULL SPEED AHEAD!

GALLOPING
GALLONS OF
GORGONZOLA!

WHAT A WEIRD ORCA!
I DON'T SEE A
DORSAL FIN...

??

BLUB-
BU BLUB

BUT... IT'S NOT
THE ORCA!

IT'S VAN KRAKEN'S
BATHYSCAPHE!

JUMPING JUMBO
PRAWNS!

SPLASH

THE PROFESSOR'S
BRAVE TO GO OUT
TO SEA IN THAT
WRECK WITH THE
ORCA NEARBY!

I DON'T KNOW IF HE'S
BRAVE... OR IF HE'S OUT
OF HIS MIND!

HA! HA!
HA!

BUT...

LEO!

...SURPRISE!





FROM THE HELICOPTER, HOWEVER, THE ORCA SEEMS TO HAVE VANISHED WITHOUT A TRACE!

NOTHING WE CAN DO! THERE'S NOT A TRACE OF THE ORCA...

FUP

FUP
FUP

THAT'S NOT POSSIBLE! IT CAN'T *DISAPPEAR* LIKE THAT!

HEY!

SWIPE

THAT *BEAST'S* A TOUGH NUT TO CRACK! BUT I CAN BE EVEN TOUGHER!

IT SOUNDS AS IF YOU HAVE A *SCORE* TO SETTLE WITH THE ORCA, MS. DE VISSEN!

HA! HA! HA! WHAT'S POPPED INTO YOUR HEAD, PROFESSOR! I'M JUST WORRIED FOR THE POOR FISHERMEN WHO'RE THREATENED BY THAT **MONSTER!**

THE ORCA ISN'T A MONSTER! THAT CREATURE IS A *SPLENDID SPECIMEN* AND VERY INTELLIGENT!

-TSK!-
SO THEY SAY!

FUP FUP FUP FUP FUP

PROFESSOR! THERE'S A CERTAIN PAULINA ON THE RADIO FOR YOU! IT SOUNDS URGENT!

-GASP!-
AND TO THINK THAT THIS WAS SUPPOSED TO BE A CALM DAY!

I HEAR YOU, PAULINA! WHAT'S HAPPENED?

NICKY AND PAMELA HAVE LOCATED THE ORCA, PROFESSOR!

FINALLY!

EXCELLENT, MY DEAR! BUT NOW GIVE US THE COORDINATES FOR THE ORCA! THERE'S NOT A MOMENT TO LOSE!

~OOOF!~
WHAT AWFUL MANNERS!

GRAB!

I LIKE THIS DE VISSEN WOMAN LESS AND LESS! HER INTEREST IN THE ORCA IS STARTING TO BECOME SUSPICIOUS!

VAN KRAKEN ISN'T WRONG. VISSIA'S SECRET PLAN HAS BEGUN...

GIVE OUR SAILORS THE POSITION OF THE BRUTE AND THEN MAKE UP SOME STORY FOR US TO GO BACK...

CONSIDER IT DONE, MS. DE VISSEN!

AFTER SEVERAL MINUTES...

MS. DE VISSEN,
WE HAVE A PROBLEM!

FUP FUP FUP

WE'VE GONE TOO FAR AND ARE ABOUT TO USE UP THE FUEL! WE NEED TO RETURN TO THE YACHT IMMEDIATELY!

THAT'S JUST WHAT I DIDN'T WANT! RIGHT WHEN WE WERE ABOUT TO GET TO THE ORCA!

I'M SORRY, MA'AM! BUT I DIDN'T EXPECT WE'D BE GOING OUT FOR SUCH A LONG TRIP!

BETTER THIS WAY! AT LEAST WE'LL LEAVE THAT POOR ANIMAL IN PEACE!

THE HELICOPTER REVERSES ITS COURSE AND ABANDONS THE SEARCH...

FUP FUP FUP

...WHILE VISSIA DE VISSSEN'S
SAILORS SWING INTO ACTION!

WE HAVE THE
COORDINATES! ALL
HANDS TO THEIR
POSTS! BEGIN
OPERATION
ORCA!

AT THE SAME TIME, AT THE
BOTTOM OF THE SEA...

THE SIGNAL FROM
THE WHALEPHONE ISN'T
WRONG! YOU'RE VERY
CLOSE TO THE ORCA
AND SHOULD SEE
IT VERY SOON!

LISTEN, NICKY!
THERE'S ANOTHER
SOUND!

BEEEEEP... BEEEEEP... BEEEEEP...
TICK TICK TICK

IT'S LIKE
AN ECHO...

DO YOU HEAR
THAT NOISE IN THE
BACKGROUND, TOO,
YOU GUYS?

LOUD AND CLEAR! AND
SOMETHING NEW HAS ALSO
APPEARED ON THE
MONITOR...

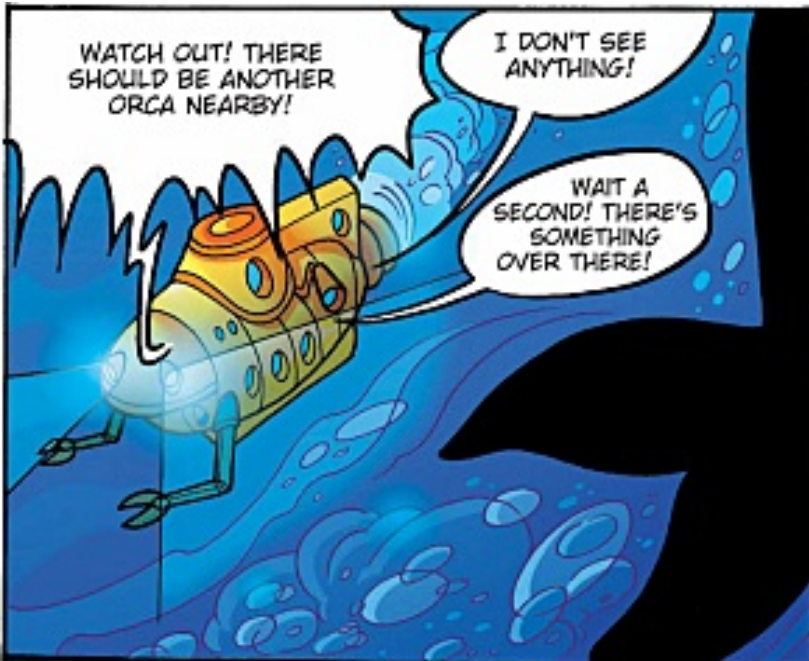
BEEEEEP BEEEEEP BEEEEEP
TICK TICK TICK

IT SEEMS TO BE
THE CALL OF
ANOTHER ORCA!

THEN IT'S NOT
SOLITARY, AS
EVERYBODY BELIEVED...

THERE
IT IS!

WE SEE
IT, GUYS!
IT'S RIGHT
IN FRONT
OF US!





BUT WHO?
WHO
CAUGHT
IT?



A FISHING BOAT'S DRAGGING THE CAGE WITH
THE ORCA INSIDE IT! LET'S FOLLOW IT AND
SEE IF WE CAN FIND OUT
WHERE IT'S
GOING!

BE CAREFUL!
THAT COULD BE
DANGEROUS!



MEANWHILE, VISSIA'S HELICOPTER
HAS RETURNED TO HER YACHT!



WELCOME
ABOARD, MS.
DE VISSEN!

THANK YOU,
CAPTAIN RATCHET!



UHM... I DON'T WANT TO TAKE
ADVANTAGE OF YOUR HOSPITALITY,
MA'AM! IF SOMEONE COULD
TAKE ME BACK
TO LAND, I...

YOU
MUST BE
JOKING? YOU'RE
NOT GOING TO
WANT TO LEAVE
JUST NOW!



ALL YOUR COLLEAGUES WILL BE ARRIVING
IN JUST A FEW MINUTES! YOU'VE ALL BEEN
INVITED TO DINNER HERE THIS EVENING!

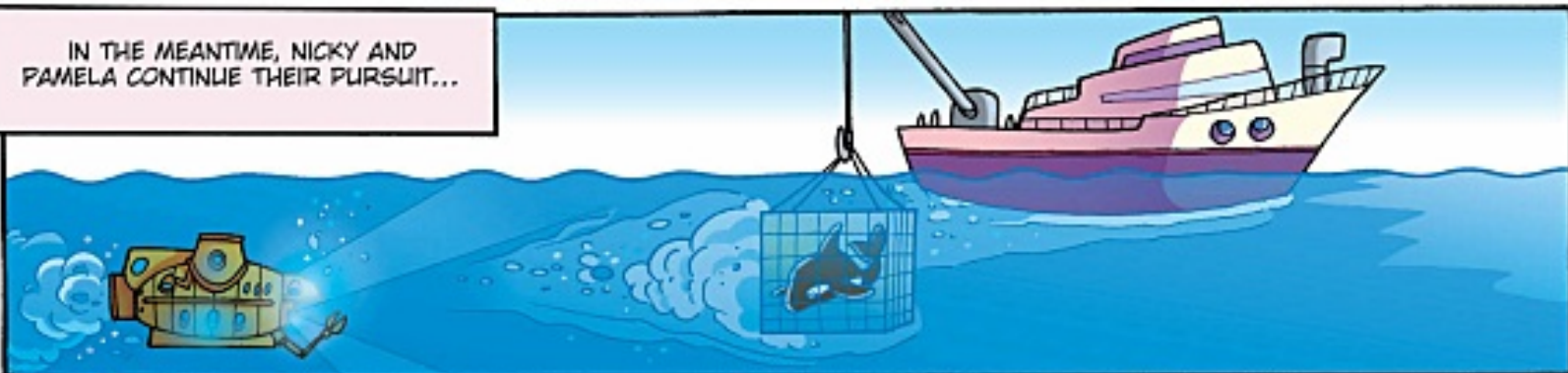
UHM... I DIDN'T
KNOW THAT!



CAPTAIN, I'LL ENTRUST YOU
WITH OUR GUEST! SHOW HIM THE
EQUIPMENT ONBOARD! I'M SURE
THE PROFESSOR WILL FIND
IT INTERESTING!

VAN KRAKEN WILL STAY
HERE... AT LEAST UNTIL
MY ORCA'S STASHED
AWAY!

IN THE MEANTIME, NICKY AND
PAMELA CONTINUE THEIR PURSUIT...



WHERE'RE THEY
HEADING? WE'VE GONE
QUITE A BIT AWAY FROM
WHALE ISLAND!



THEY'RE
HEADED
NORTHWEST!



TOWARDS WINDY
ISLAND...

WHY EVER
THERE? IT'S AN
UNINHABITED
ISLAND!



NOT AT ALL! THAT'S VISSIA DE
VISSIN'S PRIVATE ISLAND!

SAY WHAT?!



IT WAS IN
THE JULY ISSUE
OF VANITY! SHE
BOUGHT THE
ISLAND TO
TRANSFORM IT
INTO HER
RESIDENCE!



"AN EXCLUSIVE VILLA ALSO KNOWN AS
...THE HERMITAGE!"



THE BATHYSCAPHE SILENTLY
ENTERS A NATURAL INLET...

...WHERE NICKY AND PAMELA
ARE ABLE TO SLIP OUTSIDE
WITHOUT BEING SEEN!

YOU FINALLY CAUGHT IT!
MS. DE VISSEN PROMISED
DOUBLE PAY FOR
EVERYONE!

ENOUGH!
IT'S TOO SOON
TO CELEBRATE!

HURRAY!

THE ORCA'S IN THE CAGE!
WHAT'RE YOU AFRAID OF,
PROFESSOR?

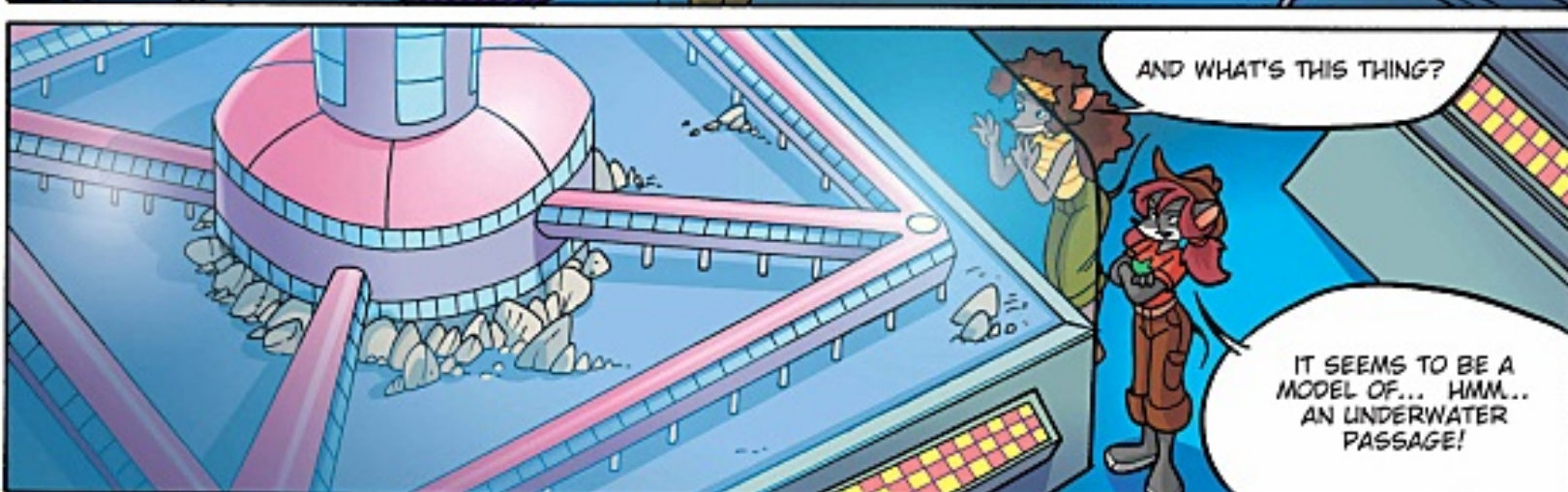
IT WON'T BE EASY TO
KEEP TWO ORCAS OF
THAT SIZE TOGETHER IN
ONE AQUARIUM!

YOU CALL THAT AN
AQUARIUM? OURS IS
THE LARGEST MARINE
PARK IN THE
WORLD!

**THEY'RE BORN
IN THE WILD!**
THEY'RE MEANT TO
SWIM IN **OCEANS**,
NOT LIVE COOPED
UP IN A PEN!

THEY'LL KEEP EACH
OTHER COMPANY
TOGETHER!
HA! HA!

PERFECT! WHILE
EVERYONE'S
BUSY WITH
THE CAPTURED
ORCA...



A HATCH OPENS UP
AUTOMATICALLY AND...

WHOOSH!!!

!

HEY! I
KNOW WHAT
THAT IS! IT'S AN
ANGEL SHARK*!
A RARELY SEEN
FISH THAT'S
ON THE WAY
TO BEING
EXTINCT!

...AN INCREDIBLE
UNDERWATER WORLD
OPENS UP IN FRONT OF
PAMELA'S AND NICKY'S EYES!

RAT-TASTIC!

* THE TWO WINGS OF THE ANGEL SHARK ARE ACTUALLY ITS PECTORAL FINS. IT LIVES ALONG THE COASTS IN TEMPERATE WATERS. DURING THE DAY IT SPENDS ITS TIME HIDDEN UNDER THE SAND, LEAVING ONLY ITS EYES SHOWING.



*A RELATIVE OF SHARKS, THE MANTA RAY IS THE LARGEST RAY IN THE WORLD. ITS "WING" SPAN CAN BE AS LARGE AS 22 FEET. IT LIVES IN TROPICAL WATERS, IN THE PACIFIC AND INDIAN OCEANS AND IN THE RED SEA. IT'S HARMLESS TO HUMANS AND FEEDS ON PLANKTON.

FINALLY THAT DE VISSEN WOMAN HAS MANAGED TO FULFILL HER CRAZY WHIM, AND THE OTHER ORCA'S TRAPPED IN THE AQUARIUM...

EVER SINCE WE CAPTURED HER PARTNER, SHE NEVER STOPPED SEARCHING FOR HIM!

THERE'S A STRONG BOND BETWEEN ORCAS. THEIR PODS LOOK LIKE A FAMILY! THERE'S A MALE, A FEMALE, THEIR CALVES AND THEIR ELDERLY...

WHAT COUNTS IS THAT STARTING TODAY, DE VISSEN'S MARINE PARK HAS TWO MORE VALUABLE SPECIMENS!

WHOOSH!

THAT SOLVES THE **MYSTERY** OF THE LONE ORCA. SHE NEVER STOPPED FOLLOWING THE TRAIL OF HER PARTNER!

EVERY SHIP LOOKED LIKE THE ONE THAT TOOK HIM AWAY...AND THAT'S WHY SHE ATTACKED EVERY VESSEL.

POOR THING...WHO KNOWS HOW MUCH SHE MUST HAVE SUFFERED WITHOUT HIM!

WE HAVE TO OPEN THE CAGES AND FREE THE IMPRISONED ANIMALS! EVERYONE MUST KNOW ABOUT THE MISDEEDS OF VISSIA DE VISSEN AND...

SHHH! WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO A DARN THING IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE FIRST!

~AMPH!~

THE COAST IS CLEAR!

AT THE SAME TIME, ALSO AT MOUSEFORD, THERE'S SOMEONE FACING BIG RISKS...

PROFESSOR SPARKLE! BARTHOL-MEOWOOOOO!

RATILDA, NO! NOT THIS YEAR, TOO!

UHM... I WAS REALLY SURE THAT YOU WENT OVER HERE...

RATILDA IS NICE...

...BUT BEING HER DATE LAST YEAR WAS TOO **TIRING!**

ONLY POOR WONDERRAT HAD IT WORSE! MIDGE TRAMPLED HIS TWO PAWS TO SMITHEREENS!

A POINT IN MY FAVOR! QUICK, HERE'S A WAY OUT!

SLAM

PROFESSOR SPARKLE! WHAT'RE YOU DOING HERE?

~GASPI!~...
MIDGE!

SAY NO MORE! I UNDERSTAND EVERYTHING!

I-- ER... WOULD LIKE-- I'M HERE BECAUSE...

I'D BE VERY HAPPY TO BE YOUR DATE AT THE ACADEMY'S DANCE, BARTHOL-OMEW!

OH, NO!

ONBOARD HER YACHT,
VISSIA IS SAVORING
HER TRIUMPH...

HOW ARE MY
ORCAS DOING,
CAPTAIN?

MARVELOUSLY,
MS. DE VISSSEN!

GOOD! THEN GET READY TO
LEAVE FOR THE ANTARCTIC
RATTIC OCEAN! A RARE
WHITE DOLPHIN'S
JUST BEEN SPOTTED...

AND NEEDLESS
TO SAY,
I WANT IT!

PAMELA AND NICKY HAVE
RETURNED TO THE MARINE
BIOLOGY LAB TO TELL THE
OTHERS EVERYTHING...

WHAT AN
INCREDIBLE
STORY!

I'LL ALERT THE
BLUE MICE* RIGHT
AWAY!

THAT'S NOT
ENOUGH! WE HAVE
TO **FREE** THOSE POOR
CREATURES **IMMEDIATELY!**
ANY WAY WE CAN!

***BLUE MICE** IS THE
INTERNATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL
ORGANIZATION THAT NICKY AND
PAULINA BELONG TO.

WHAT? YOU DON'T WANT
TO RETURN TO WINDY
ISLAND? IT'S
TOO RISKY!

ONE WAY
WOULD BE...

HUH? ARE YOU
SERIOUS?

I'VE READ EVERYTHING ABOUT
VISSIA DE VISSSEN! SHE WAS
MY IDOL! I BELIEVED SHE
WAS SOMEONE **SPECIAL**
AND INSTEAD...

...SHE'S JUST
A **GREEDY,**
UNSCRUPULOUS
LIAR!

BUT... HAVING READ SO MUCH ABOUT HER WON'T HAVE BEEN A WASTE! NOW I KNOW HOW TO UNMASK HER!

TELL US EVERYTHING, COLETTE!

"...AND AT THE RIGHT TIME, THERE WILL ALSO BE

FIVE EXTRA GUESTS!"

VISSIA DE VISSEN IS HAVING A PARTY ON HER YACHT TONIGHT! THERE'RE SURE TO BE JOURNALISTS AND TV CAMERAS THERE...

A SIMPLY ENCHANTING YACHT!

WHAT STYLE!
WHAT ELEGANCE!

SO RICH AND
SO GENEROUS!

PULL ALONGSIDE, PAMELA, AND... YOU GUYS, I RECOMMEND YOU... **SMILE!**



CAPTAIN, A MOTORBOAT IS ASKING PERMISSION TO COME ALONGSIDE!

THESE'LL BE MORE GUESTS...



BUT THOSE ARE THE **THEA SISTERS!** WHO INVITED THEM?



HOW DARE THEY? THIS IS AN EXCLUSIVE PARTY! GET AWAY FROM HERE!



RELAX, VANILLA! WHERE'S THE FAMOUS DE VISSSEN HOSPITALITY GONE TO?

?!



COME THIS WAY! IF YOU DON'T MIND, I'LL BE YOUR GUIDE FOR A SMALL TOUR AROUND OUR "LITTLE BOAT"...

-GASP!-...ER ...OH!...WE, REALLY...



COLLETTE? NICKY? WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

DID YOU KIDS WANT SOMETHING?

WE'RE STUDYING JOURNALISM, MS. DE VISSSEN! WE DON'T WANT TO MISS A **SCOOP** OF ANY KIND!



DID SOMEONE SAY, "SCOOP"? QUICK, START BACK AT THE BEGINNING!





THE GUEST OF HONOR, VISSIA DE VISSIN, SHINES BY HER ABSENCE...

WHO'LL START THE DANCING THIS YEAR?

THE HEADMASTER WON'T DANCE WITH MS. DE VISSIN, BECAUSE SHE DIDN'T COME...

...BUT THE DANCING CERTAINLY WON'T STOP FOR THAT! LOOK!



HURRAY!

LONG LIVE MOUSEFORD!

THE MUSIC HAS BEGUN AND THE DANCERS ARE TAKING THE FLOOR, WHERE DINA AND LEOPOLD HAVE THE PLACE OF HONOR...



VANILLA AND COLETTE ARE COMPETING FOR THE CROWN OF THE MOST ELEGANT AT THE PARTY!



...AND THEN THERE ARE THE... ABSENT-MINDED...



YOU FORGOT ABOUT THE PARTY, RIGHT, PROFESSOR?

NICKY! ~GASP! PUFF! PANT!~ WOULD YOU BE MY PARTNER?

...AND, FINALLY, THE INDECISIVE, WHO ARE HURRYING TO FORM THE LAST COUPLES!



TAKE YOUR COURAGE IN YOUR TWO PAWS, SHEN! ASK PAMELA TO DANCE! BE BRAVE! TAKE A DEEP BREATH! ONE... TWO AND...

PAMELA!

-GULP!-
TOO LATE!

WOULD YOU DO
ME THE HONOR OF
THIS DANCE?

-GASP!-... OOPS!...
UMM...

OUCH!

ONLY WHEN
I'M CAUGHT
OFF-GUARD!

HA! HA! HA! ARE YOUR
ANSWERS ALWAYS SO
...MYSTERIOUS?

VIC SEEMS ARROGANT, BUT
MAYBE HE'S NICER THAN HE
WANTS TO SEEM!

DID YOU SEE
WHO'S DANCING
WITH VIC?

THE LUCK OF
THE THEA SISTERS!

THEY SAY SOMETHING
ODD ABOUT YOU THEA
SISTERS...

SOMETHING ODD?
HOW SO?

OH, MAYBE IT'S JUST GOSSIP...
BUT SOMEONE SAID THAT INSTEAD
OF STUDYING, YOU PREFER
TO TOUR AROUND
THE WORLD!

WHAT
RUBBISH!

AND SOME PEOPLE ALSO SAY
YOU'RE THE HEADMASTER'S
PETS! ISN'T THAT ALSO TRUE?

HEY! IF THERE'S A
MAMA'S BOY HERE, IT'S
CLEARLY YOU!

YOU'D BETTER TAKE CARE IF YOU CHALLENGE MY MOTHER... BUT NOW THAT YOU'RE AT THE PARTY, YOU HAVE TO DANCE!

WHEN YOU STEP ON THE TOES OF SOMEONE POWERFUL, YOU'D BETTER BE READY TO FACE THE CONSEQUENCES!

WHATEVER THE REPLY IS, THAT LOOK ON VANILLA'S FACE PROMISES NOTHING GOOD FOR THE FUTURE!

IS THAT A WARNING OR A THREAT?!

BRAVO!

CRUNCH

CLAP CLAP

**THEA'S
ARRIVED!**

GIRLS!

YOU'RE
FINALLY
HERE!

WE HAVE A
HEAP OF NEWS
TO TELL YOU!

THEA!

COLETTE! NICKY!
PAMELA! HOW
BEAUTIFUL YOU ARE!

AN **INCREDIBLE** THING
HAPPENED, THEA!

RIGHT HERE! TWO
STEPS AWAY FROM
WHALE ISLAND!

NOW THE PARTY
IS REALLY
COMPLETE!

I **PROMISED**
YOU I'D MAKE IT!

IT'S THEA STILTON,
SISTER OF GERONIMO
STILTON! THE SPECIAL
CORRESPONDENT TO
THE RODENT'S
GAZETTE!



EVERYONE RUSHES TO THE SOUTH TOWER TO WATCH THE PASSAGE OF THE WHALES FROM ABOVE...



OVER THERE!
THEY'RE SPOUTING!

THE WHALES HAVE ARRIVED AND THE
DE VISSER YACHT IS LEAVING! TOO
BAD! I WOULD'VE LIKED TO HAVE
INTERVIEWED HER...

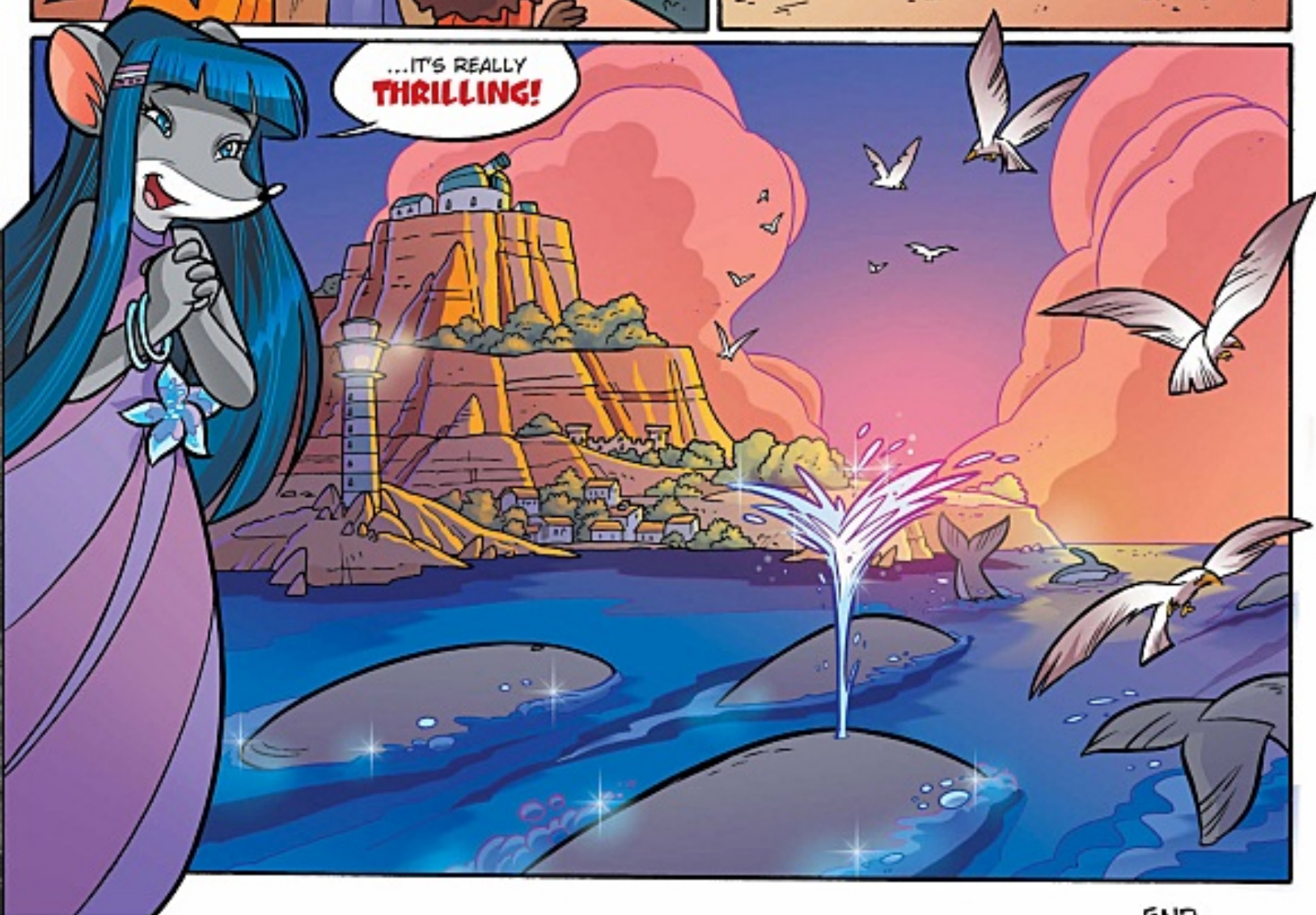


THIS IS MY FAVORITE TIME
HERE AT MOUSEFORD!

OH, YES...



...IT'S REALLY
THRILLING!



END

Watch Out For PAPERCUTZ™



Welcome to Whale Island! Er, no, no I meant, welcome to Freshman Orientation at Mouseford Academy! Wait, that's not it, either! Oh, I remember now... welcome to the premiere THEA STILTON graphic novel from Papercutz, the furry folks dedicated to publishing great graphic novels for all ages! I'm Salicrup, *Jim Salicrup*, the Editor-in-Chief of the Rodent's Gazette. Oops! That's not right either! Geronimo Stilton is the Editor-in-Chief of the Rodent's Gazette! I'm the Editor-in-Chief of Papercutz!

I apologize for all the confusion, but things have been a little crazy around here lately. Ever since we announced that we would also be publishing THEA STILTON graphic novels, Thea's many fans have been eagerly awaiting her solo-graphic novel debut. But, you see, that's where the confusion comes in! Thea's fans, after watching her in action with her brother Geronimo Stilton in his graphic novel series, naturally assumed that a new graphic novel series entitled THEA STILTON would star the world-famous Special Correspondent for the Rodent's Gazette in her very own adventures. Well, while Thea does appear in THEA STILTON, the real stars are the Thea Sisters. And no, they're not Thea's sisters, either! They're five students at Mouseford Academy who want to become real live journalists, just like their idol, Thea Stilton! So, with Thea's blessing and support, Colette, Violet, Pamela, Nicky, and Paulina have formed a sorority called "The Thea Sisters," named after you-know-who!

→Whew!← Now that we've cleared all that up (I hope), let's take a sneak peek, on the following pages, at what's coming up in GERONIMO STILTON #13 "The Fastest Train in the West," which will soon be coming down the tracks! And don't forget to look out for THEA STILTON #2 "The Revenge of the Lizard Club," also slithering its way to you soon! And if that's not enough Stilton family fun for you, don't forget to visit www.geronimostilton.com for even more fun!

Class dismissed!

Jim

Stay in Touch!

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IN THE MEANTIME, TRAP AND THEA HAD REACHED THE CONSTRUCTION SITE FOR THE RAIL LINE THAT WAS HEADING EASTWARDS.



BUT IF WE LEAVE THE SPEEDRAT HERE, HOW WILL WE GET IT BACK? IT'S IN THE MIDDLE OF THE DESERT!

EASY, WE'LL BRING IT WITH US!



THE WORK SITE MOVES WITH THE WORKERS, SO THE CRATES WON'T REMAIN HERE.

UH, NO?



TO BE OPENED AT THE INAUGURATION

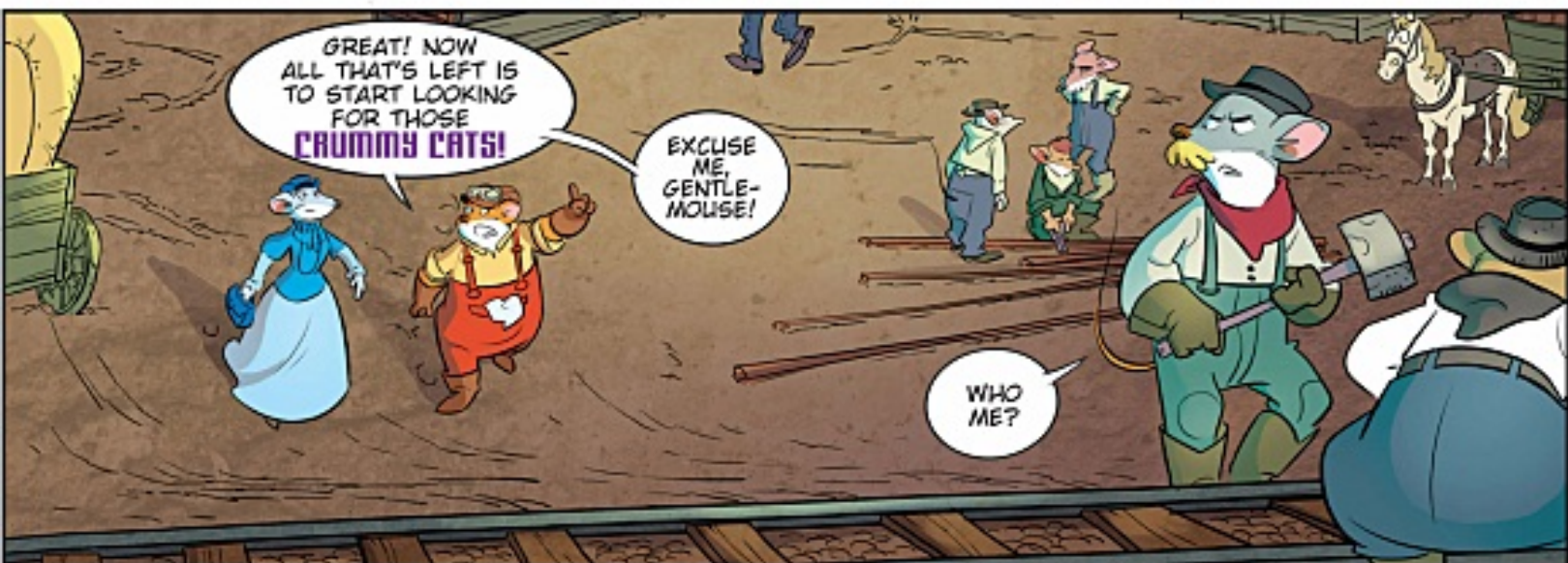
THEY'LL COME WITH US UNTIL THE WORK IS FINISHED. IT'S ENOUGH TO PROVIDE EXACT INFORMATION. THIS CRATE WILL BE ONE OF THE MANY THAT ARE FOR THE INAUGURATION!



GREAT! NOW ALL THAT'S LEFT IS TO START LOOKING FOR THOSE CRUMMY CATS!

EXCUSE ME, GENTLE-
MOUSE!

WHO ME?





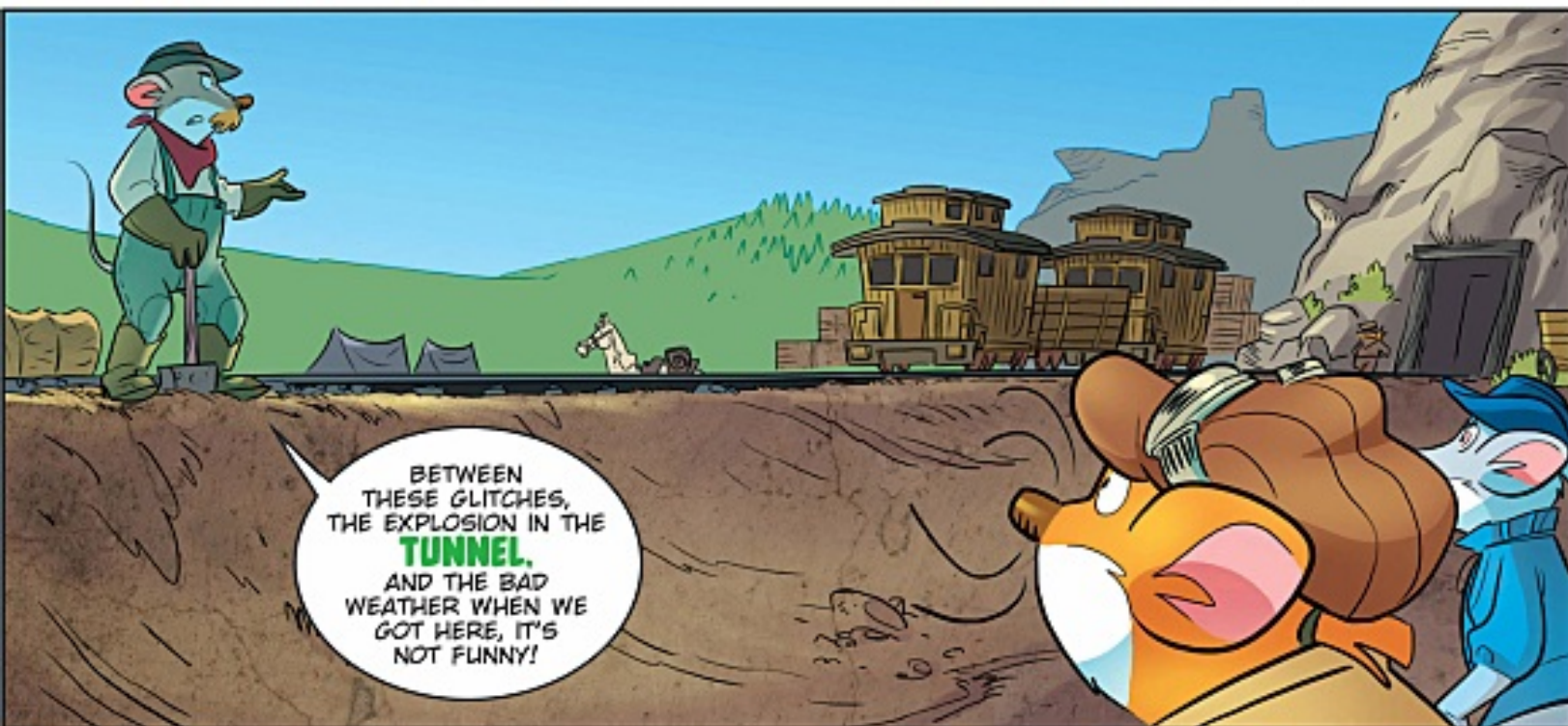
MY COUSIN AND I WOULD LIKE TO HELP WITH THE WONDERFUL PROJECT YOU'RE WORKING ON! WHAT CAN WE DO?

WELL, YOU CAN GIVE THE STOKERS A HAND. YOUR COUSIN CAN DEAL WITH THE SUPPLIES. IN THE LAST FEW DAYS THERE'VE BEEN A LOT OF PROBLEMS WITH THE INVENTORY.



WHAT KIND OF PROBLEMS?

THE CRATES SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN SCRAMBLED. SOMETIMES IT TAKES A WHOLE DAY TO FIND THE PIECES WE NEED.



BETWEEN THESE GLITCHES, THE EXPLOSION IN THE **TUNNEL**, AND THE BAD WEATHER WHEN WE GOT HERE, IT'S NOT FUNNY!



OKAY! WE'LL START LOOKING HERE!

LOOKING HERE FOR WHAT?

NO, MY COUSIN MEANT WE'D START LOOKING FOR WORK HERE!

AH!



WE'RE SEEING THE PAW PRINTS OF THE PIRATE CATS HERE!

RIGHT! THEY MUST BE THE ONE WHO'VE CREATED THE CONFUSION WITH THE SUPPLIES.



I WONDER HOW GERONIMO'S FARING?



THE WILD WEST WAS
TURNING OUT TO BE
MUCH WILDER THAN
WE'D EXPECTED!



REMEMBER,
BROTHER, AS
SOON AS YOU
LEAVE, WE SPLIT
UP. MEET AT THE
OLD QUARRY!

HOLD ON!
I'M ALMOST
DONE!

HURRY UP
WITH THAT
KNOT! YOU
DON'T WANT
THE SHERIFF
TO DISCOVER
US?



HAIIII!



?!

CRASH

Don't miss GERONIMO
STILTON #13!



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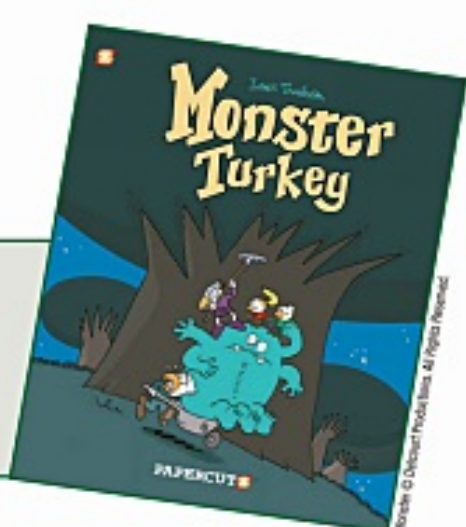
A 6 1/2 year old girl and her microbial buddy against the world!



GARFIELD & Co #8

"Secret Agent X"

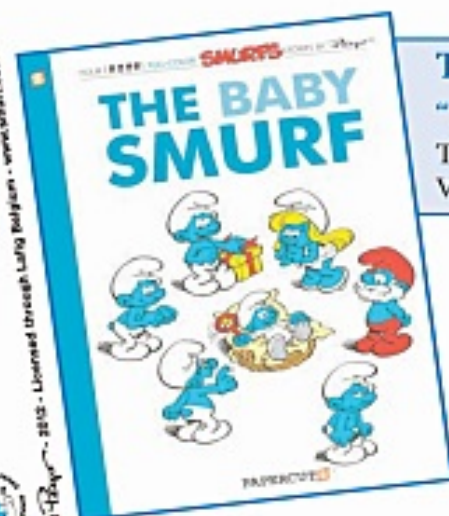
As seen on the Cartoon Network!



MONSTER #4

"Monster Turkey"

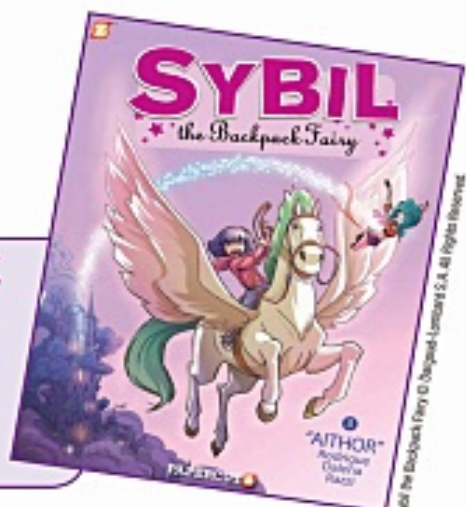
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The Thea sisters are five fun, lively students at Mouseford Academy on Whale Island, who want to be real, live journalists. Between classes and friendships, love and small fits of jealousy, they find life at the Academy to be a never-ending adventure!

THE SECRET OF WHALE ISLAND

It's the start of the new school year and the students have arrived at Mouseford Academy. Every year at this time, the whales move off the coast of Whale Island. But this time a fierce orca threatens the peace!



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